

VSP Public Comment

From: Hcarlstad@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2005 4:06 PM
To: McDannold, Bruce
Subject: Copy of 2 Minute Talk Before VSP Panel 6/17/05 by G. Wright

Mr. Bruce McDannold
 Secretary of State's Office
 1500 11th St.
 Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. McDannold:

I hope that this arrives in time to be considered with the other supplementary material relating to the Voting Systems and Procedures Panel on June 16th and 17th. It is merely a close approximation to my oral presentation made on the 17th. I pray that the Secretary of State and his office take it into account seriously in deciding on voting procedures in the future. Thank you.

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Copy of 2 Minute Presentation by Gordon Wright before the Voting Systems and Procedures Panel, Secretary of State's Office, Auditorium, 1500 11th St., Sacramento, California 95814
 June 17, 2005, approximately 11:45 A.M.

The same companies (including Diebold and ES&S) which make these (voting) machines have created Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) which, by and large, are accepted as transparent, consistent and certain.

Because of the lack of transparency, consistency and certainty of the voting machines, as evidenced by numerous reports of documented problems, there are a growing number of people who believe that these machines were created so that they could be used in order to FIX elections. The word FIX is used here pretty much as it was used in the Downing Street Memo, where "the intelligence and the facts were FIXED around the policy" for war. (At this point I held up my three page copy of the Downing Street Memo for all to observe.)

Voting and vote counting have been done by hand in many many countries throughout modern history. Present day France and Germany continue to hold elections where people hand mark printed ballots and count the vote by hand.

In France, many members of the community gather in the polling places after the vote and watch and listen as the votes are read out, recorded and tabulated. Thus, the citizens in France can double check the vote count right as it is happening. The counts are then telephoned into central counting stations and the results are known (nationwide) within four hours.

In Germany, a professional civil servant class takes a week to carefully count the hand marked ballots in order to confirm the results already reached by their very reliable exit polls.

In my mind, to not outlaw all of these machines and go back to a simpler less potentially corrupt method would indicate that we have already been sold out to corporate, political, financial and bureaucratic interests at the expense of all the citizens of this country (and this state).

(Repeating the very cogent words of an earlier speaker) "The integrity of our vote and our vote-counting process is MISSION CRITICAL TO DEMOCRACY" and to our Constitution. Please stand up for democracy! Let all of you, or at least some of you be recognized as heros (and not zeros) in the record of history. I pray that some of you will dare to care more about our democracy and our Constitution than about going along with a system which appears to wish to place everything under its control.

(Because the chairman of the VSPP panel had not yet told me that my two minutes was up, I decided to repeat two phrases from the last paragraph) "Please stand up!
Be heros, not zeros!